NEWS ANALYSIS 1-1892 NOVEMBER 26, 1976
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U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE U.S.

ANNCR: THE UNITED STATES HAS CALLED ON THE UNITED NATIONS TO STRENGTHEN ITS HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY, AS THE SOVIET UNION CONTINUES ITS EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE THOSE RIGHTS IN AT LEAST ONE AREA OF HUMAN ACTIVITY. NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN DISCUSSES THESE DEVELOPMENTS.

VOICE: THE CHALLENGE TO THE UNITED NATIONS WAS PRESENTED IN A FORCEFUL SPEECH BY AMERICAN CHIEF DELEGATE (WILLIAM) SCRANTON WEDNESDAY. THE SCRANTON ADDRESS SOUNDED THREE MAJOR THEMES: THE NEED FOR THE UNITED NATIONS TO OVERHAUL ITS HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY; THAT THE THIRD WORLD SHOULD NOT SACRIFICE HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE NAME OF DEVELOPMENT, NOR ALLOW ITSELF TO BE MANIPULATED BY THE SOVIET UNION ALONG THOSE LINES AND, THIRD, THAT THE SOVIET UNION MUST FULFILL ITS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITMENTS UNDER THE 1975 HELSINKI ACCORDS ON EUROPEAN SECURITY.

LESS THAN A DAY AFTER MISTER SCRANTON SPOKE, THE SOVIET DELEGATE TO THE NAIROBI U.N. EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO) CONFERENCE HAD HIS SAY ON ONE ASPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS. HIS WORDS EXEMPLIFIED THE SCRANTON CHARGE THAT MOSCOW IS NOT LOATH TO DISTORT HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ITS OWN PURPOSES--PARTICULARLY IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

THE SOVIET DELEGATE ACCUSED THE UNITED STATES, THE WESTERN EUROPEAN DELEGATIONS, COLOMBIA AND JAPAN OF DEADLOCKING CONSIDERATION OF A SOVIET MOVE TO EXTEND STATE CONTROL OVER ALL MEDIA AROUND THE WORLD. THE SOVIET MOVE, IN THE FORM OF A PROPOSED UNESCO DECLARATION ON MASS MEDIA, WAS DEFEATED BY AN OVERWHELMING VOTE SOME DAYS AGO. THE DRAFT DECLARATION WAS REFERRED TO A SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR POSSIBLE MODIFICATION. (OPT) THE COMMITTEE SO FAR HAS BEEN UNABLE TO RECONCILE THE BASIC SOVIET PREMISE

REFLECTED IN MOSCOW'S PROPOSAL THAT STATES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTROL OF ALL MASS MEDIA WITH THE UNESCO CHARTER'S BASIC CONCEPT. THAT CONCEPT WOULD BROADEN HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING PRESS FREEDOM, IN THE EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL FIELDS. (END OPT)

WESTERN DELEGATIONS SEE THE SOVIET PROPOSAL AS A MOVE TO POLITICIZE THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IN UNESCO, AND TO RESTRICT THE FREEDOM OF OPERATION OF MASS MEDIA IN ALL COUNTRIES-- DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN MEDIA. IF THE COMMITTEE FALLS SHORT OF ITS JOB BY TUESDAY, WHEN THE UNESCO CONFERENCE ENDS, THE SOVIET PROPOSAL WILL BE HELD OVER FOR THE NEXT UNESCO GENERAL MEETING TWO YEARS FROM NOW.

THERE IS ONE INESCAPABLE CONCLUSION TO BE DRAWN FROM BOTH THE SCRANTON SPEECH AND THE SOVIET ATTACK ON WESTERN EFFORTS TO DEFEND HUMAN RIGHTS AS THEY AFFECT FREEDOM OF COMMUNICATIONS. IT IS THAT IN ATTEMPTING TO RAM THROUGH ITS PROPOSAL, MOSCOW IS PLAYING IT UP AS A RESPONSE TO THE DEVELOPING WORLD'S EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPMENT, IN SOME CASES, AS MERITING PRIORITY OVER HUMAN RIGHTS. AMBASSADOR SCRANTON CALLED SUCH SOVIET TACTICS A DESTRUCTIVE EFFORT BY MOSCOW TO MANIPULATE THE DEVELOPING WORLD. AND HE NOTED THAT THE CENTRAL LESSON OF MODERN HISTORY IS THAT SOCIETIES ACHIEVE THEIR GREATEST DEVELOPMENT ONLY UNDER SYSTEMS THAT PROTECT AND DO NOT RESTRICT THE INVENTIVENESS, CREATIVITY AND FREEDOM OF THEIR CITIZENS. IT IS UP TO THE UNITED NATIONS, MISTER SCRANTON SUGGESTED, TO OVERHAUL ITS HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY SO THAT IT CAN BE AN EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT IN CREATING A WORLDWIDE CLIMATE FOR THAT INVENTIVENESS, CREATIVITY AND FREEDOM NECESSARY TO SPUR DEVELOPMENT.

AND THAT, TOO, IS THE GOAL OF THE NON-COMMUNIST MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL UNESCO COMMITTEE SEEKING TO DRAFT A GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE FORMULA FOR A FREER FLOW OF INFORMATION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

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